

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 53

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20—Relative to California Safe Digging Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 14, 2011.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 20, DeSaulnier. California Safe Digging Month.

This measure would proclaim April as California Safe Digging Month.

WHEREAS, Excavators, homeowners, and professional contractors can save time and money while making California's communities a safer place to live and work by dialing 811 in advance of all digging projects; and

WHEREAS, The 811 "Call Before You Dig" program is a vital public education and awareness program dealing with the safety of subsurface excavation, and education is the key to promoting safe digging practices; and

WHEREAS, The five steps to a safe excavation are: survey and mark, call before you dig, wait the required time, respect the marks, and dig with care; and

WHEREAS, Utility lines are often buried only a few inches underground, making them easy to strike and cause damage and harm even during shallow excavation projects; and

WHEREAS, More than 170,000 underground utility lines are struck each year in the United States and approximately 33 percent of all digging damages in the United States result from not calling 811 before digging; and

WHEREAS, Undesired consequences, such as service interruption, outages, damage to the environment, personal injury, and death, are risked by failing to call 811 before digging or safely marking utility lines; and

WHEREAS, Calling 811 to be connected to a "One Call Center" before digging, respecting the color-coded lines that demarcate underground utilities, and digging with care around the marked lines will help keep Californians safe and prevent damages and destruction; and

WHEREAS, As California's economy recovers from the recent recession and the state's economic recovery stimulates new construction, new construction requires supporting infrastructure, and California's underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage caused by those who fail to call before digging; and

WHEREAS, California has two "One Call Centers" that provide a free and effective damage prevention service for Californians: Underground

Service Alert of Northern California and Nevada and Underground Service Alert of Southern California; and

WHEREAS, Underground Service Alert of Northern California and Nevada and Underground Service Alert of Southern California, in cooperation with California's public and private utilities, provide an effective damage prevention service that protects California's citizens, communities, public services, environment, and underground facilities at no cost to the caller; and

WHEREAS, The free notification service provided by Underground Service Alert of Northern California and Nevada and Underground Service Alert of Southern California has dramatically reduced the number of accidents causing property damage, personal injury, and interruption of vital services; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature proclaims April as California Safe Digging Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.